

Thought for the week

MINISTERING TO ANXIETY IN A TIME OF PANDEMIC.

I know I'm not alone in feeling both gratitude and concern at how government is dealing with the crisis. One can't but be grateful for the enormous and sustained effort to minimise the public health consequences of the pandemic. On the other hand, it seems at times that anxiety, rather than being assuaged, is being managed in an almost strategic way. This may be quite indeliberate, but a cursory review of statements from recent weeks points to it. Progress in containment, even as it is being welcomed, is presented as further cause for anxiety. The slow, tentative opening up is being portrayed as something taking place beneath a great sword of Damocles. To be clear: anxiety can be a perfectly appropriate response in the face of threats. But is widespread fear really conducive to public health? Are we the better for having our elderly population living in a state of anxiety? And if we are so feckless as to need to be motivated by fear, then are we not too feckless to be motivated by fear? As Church, we need to be rigorously self-critical. It is of course essential that we play our part in safeguarding public health, but not in a way that is blind to broader aspects of the crisis - not least to the sadness and anxiety many people experience. We will not have done our duty when - if it were possible! - we have made our churches 'safe.' There is undoubtably some tension between the sanitising transformation of our churches, on the one hand, and the sense of peace and sanctuary they should provide, on the other. We may not be able to square this circle, but to default into a position of absolute maximum physical safety may not be wise. To raise these matters, to nod in the direction of 'seeking a balance,' is not to be cavalier with people's health, any more than is allowing people into libraries or supermarkets, where social distancing and physical contact remain matters of concern. In such instances, a degree of risk is accepted - managed, yes, but accepted - so that we can actually live rather than simply stay alive. As Church, we can learn from other sectors emerging from lockdown. We can strive for whatever balance may be permitted by the demands we face. We are, of course, already striving. May the Lord help us to strive wisely and well. May he help us to minister thoughtfully to the many little people presently carrying large burdens. Fr. Chris Hayden

Have a Wonderful Week

PARISH NEWSLETTER

16th. Sunday in Ordinary. Time. 19th. July



PARISH CENTRE

Opening hours: Tuesday & Friday 9.30 - 1.30.

Phone 059 9156890 email:

clonmoreoffice.parish@gmail.com

Fr. John: 086-2403787; email: frjohn51@gmail.com.

Website: www.clonmoreparish.ie

In today's Gospel, we hear many parables about the 'Kingdom of heaven' and what it is like. This might move us to think about the afterlife, but Jesus was describing God's kingdom in the here and now, 'on earth as in heaven.' Jesus, through parables, is trying to describe what is difficult to comprehend. Parables allow our minds and hearts to ponder, to imagine, to move beyond the constraints of language. Jesus is describing what God's vision for this world is like, in the here and now! Taking one of these parables, the mustard seed, we can explore a little more. There is an ancient text which forbade planting mustard seeds in Palestinian gardens because the shrub would take over. It can go wild, out of control, and attract unwanted birds. Author Shane Claiborn compares it to *kudzu*, a wild vine that could blanket entire mountain areas and even crack cement buildings. I like the idea of something so small causing so much mischief, holy mischief! The Kingdom of Heaven is like this? Yes, growing even where it is not wanted. People in authority during Jesus' time might have had images of the 'lofty cedars of Lebanon' representing the 'reign of God.' Theirs was a grand vision. As with most of Jesus' parables, he turns things on their head. It is through the smallest of seeds that God's grace affects the world, silently making its way through the cracks. 'Might I,' quavered Mary, 'might I have a bit of earth?' 'Earth!' he repeated. 'What do you mean?' 'To plant seeds in - to make things grow - to see them come alive.' FRANCES H. BURNETT, *The Secret Garden*

MASS SCHEDULE

Tuesday 21st. July Mass in Kilquiggan at 7.30 pm. Wednesday 22nd. Mass in Ballyconnell Church at 9.30 am. Thursday 23rd. Mass in Ballyconnell Church at 9.30 am. Friday 24th. Mass in Ballyconnell Church at 7.30 pm. Saturday 25th. July: Mass in Ballyconnell Church at 7.30. Sunday 26th. Mass in Kilquiggan Church at 10.30.

Anniversaries - with love we remember

Saturday 18th. July: Ballyconnell: James Coughlan, Oldtown, Clonmore.
Sunday 19th. July: Clonmore Church: Louisa Kinsella and her husband James Kinsella. Thomas & Margaret Pollard, Bellmount.
Sunday 26th. July - Kilquiggan Church John Wilson, Ballynultagh & Andy O'Toole, Ballyconnell.

Confirmation: We will have Confirmation for the boys and girls of Ballyconnell NS; on Friday 24th. Group A at 2pm and Saturday 25th. Group B at 11.30 am.



OUTDOOR BINGO ON Sunday 2nd. August (Bank holiday weekend) In Carpark behind Ballyconnell Church. Please spread the word. Begins at 3.00 pm. Thanks to all who turned up for the meeting last week.



We will have another meeting on Wednesday 29th. July to finalise the details. We would still appreciate more volunteers to help on the day.

Coolkenno GAA Lotto: Last week's numbers: 2, 10, 17, 24

Winner: No Winner

This week's jackpot €8,600. Next Draw: 20th. July In Club house

Lucky Dip Winners: Tom Dagge, Ned Rossiter; Irene Kane, Amy Rose Cush

FACEBOOK - FAKE NEWS.

(Continued from last week)

But who are the biggest culprits when it comes to spreading the fake news? Is it automated online bots or humans who spreading fake news? A piece of research published in January 2019, in the journal, *Science*, said that older people are almost four times more likely to have shared fake news on Facebook than the younger generation. On average, Facebook users over the age of 65 shared nearly seven times as many articles from fake news domains as those aged between 18 and 29, researchers from NYU and Princeton found in the study. The researchers analysed the Facebook history of about 1,750 American adults, cross-referencing links they had posted with lists of known fake news publishers. This finding is backed up by the demographic data, with over-65s, who came to the internet later in life, sharing more than twice as many fake news articles as those in the second-oldest age group. The research authors wrote: 'As the largest generation in America enters retirement at a time of sweeping demographic and technological change, it is possible that an entire cohort of Americans, now in their 60s and beyond, lacks the level of digital media literacy necessary to reliably determine the trustworthiness of news encountered online.' So please, think before you tweet and fact-check before you Facebook! I recommend HoaxSlayer.com <<http://HoaxSlayer.com>> as a really good source for checking for fake news stories and scams on social media.

Ms. Brenda Drumm

Pope's Intention for July

We pray that today's families may be accompanied with love, respect and guidance.